

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, to open on LB 588.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This is one of the two bills that I introduced this year dealing with the boundary issue in my district. It's what I call a Catch 22 situation for local government taxpayers in Richardson and Nemaha County, which, of course, they're both in my district. The Catch 22 is a boundary dispute between the states of Iowa...or states of Missouri and Nebraska. I think it was a couple years ago the Boundary Commission of Nebraska and Missouri got together, and this was the Boundary Commission, by the way, who got together and decided that they'd put the boundary at the center of the Missouri River. This has already been done in the Missouri Legislature, and Senator Wehrbein has, who, by the way, is a member of the Boundary Commission, has introduced a bill this year that would do the same for Nebraska, which would mirror that bill, which is necessary in order to get that issue resolved in the minds of those people. In my opinion, it's very unfortunate that neither the passage nor the defeat of this bill is going to necessarily be a perfect solution to the issue. If the bill is passed the local subdivisions of Richardson and Nemaha County will suffer, as many of you have heard me talk about before, a net loss in the amount of valuation and property tax revenue that they receive in the schools, as well as the counties and other entities of government in that particular...in those two particular counties. So in order to deal with this situation, I've introduced a bill to soften the blow by providing compensation to those subdivisions for a limited number of years. But this bill was killed in committee. The bill now that I'm talking to you about, LB 588, deals with the problem of what happens if Senator Wehrbein's bill doesn't pass or isn't passed this year. We've been informed, I say we, I and some of my constituents have been informed in no uncertain terms that Atchison and Holt Counties, across the river, in Missouri, will begin legal action to collect taxes on disputed land on the east side of the river. This is land that Missouri has never taxed, it's always been taxed by Nebraska, it's considered to be Nebraska land, and